

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, July 30, 1838, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, July 30, 1838.

My Dear General, I wrote you at the close of the session, about the posture of our affairs generally and Old Adams' attack on you particularly. Since then nothing has occurred worthy of notice. You will have seen how I have dealt with Adams for his use of your letter. Although I am glad he showed himself scoundrel enough to commit the breach of honor of violating a strictly confidential letter, because it proves him to be a knave, while it is a new testimony of your personal and political probity, yet the baseness through which it was procured and the vile perversion attempted upon it, deserved the severest animadversion. Majr. Lewis tells me to day that he asked Mayo, how he came by the letter and was informed by him that he called on you for the private letters he had addressed to you and he found yours to Fulton enclosed in one of his to you. This honest fellow, then, takes advantage of your liberal release of all hold you had upon him, through his correspondence to possess himself of your confidential correspondence with another man, to keep it and to use it. And Adams an Ex President of the United States avails himself of a letter so purloined, breaks its seal of Confidence and reads it to the House of Representatives!! I was present when he did this, and although gratified at its contents, could not but wish that his ears were nailed to a pillory. You have no reason to vex yourself about it, however, for while he convinced everybody he deserved the Pillory, he convinced them also that you deserved the Presidency from which you kicked him. I recur to the matter now barely to apprize you of the mode in which Mayo says he possessed himself and Adams of the letter. I think Mr. Van Buren ought to have him dismissed from

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Office; for what paper in the pension Office to which he has access would be safe in such hands?